

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Toshiya WAKAHOI *et al.*

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: **FUEL CELL STACK HAVING
CORRECTION PLATES FOR
CORRECTING DEFORMATION OF
METAL SEPARATORS**

Attorney Docket No.: SIW-019

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows.

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows.

1. (Amended) A fuel cell stack comprising:
a plurality of stacked unit fuel cells, each comprising a membrane electrode assembly which is placed between and supported by a pair of metal separators, wherein the membrane electrode assembly has an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte membrane disposed between the anode and the cathode; and
one or more correction plates, made of one of carbon and metal, for correcting deformation of the metal separators, said correction plates being inserted every predetermined number of the plurality of stacked unit fuel cells.

REMARKS

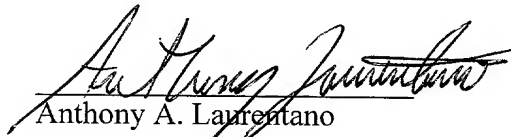
Applicants amend claim 1 to address matters of form. The foregoing amendment introduces no new matter and is not related to issues of patentability.

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully in order and requested.

If there are any questions regarding the amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 7, 2001

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A fuel cell stack comprising:
a plurality of stacked unit fuel cells, each comprising a membrane electrode assembly which is placed between and supported by a pair of metal separators, wherein the membrane electrode assembly has an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte membrane ~~which is placed~~ disposed between the anode and the cathode; and
one or more correction plates, made of one of carbon or and metal, for correcting deformation of the metal separators, said correction plates being ~~are~~ inserted every predetermined number of the plurality of stacked unit fuel cells.

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